COURTNEY STAIRS

Affiliation: Department of Cell and Molecular Biology, Uppsala University (UU)
Date of birth: 1987-09-15
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EDUCATION

2009-2015 PhD, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Dalhousie Uni. (Canada)
2005-2009 BSc, First-class combined honours degree Biochemistry and Molecular Biology & Microbiology and Immunology, Dalhousie Uni.

CURRENT AND PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

2025- University Lecturer, Dept. of Cell and Molecular Biology (ICM), UU
2020-2025 Associate University Lecturer Dept. of Biology, Lund U.
2016-2020 EMBO long-term fellow and NSERC postdoctoral researcher, UU
2015-2016 Postdoctoral researcher, Dalhousie Uni.

DOCENTSHIP

2025 Docent competence, Department of Biology, Lund University.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2025	Hagbergs prize recipient in Biochemistry	0.5 M kr
2025-2028	Human Frontiers in Science Research Grant (co-PI) "*Deciphering the Evolution, Cellular Biology, and Biogeochemistry of Symbioses in Anaerobic Eukaryotes"*	12 M.kr
2025-2030	Wallenberg Academy Fellowship (PI) "*Breathless microbes".*	18 M.kr
2023-2029	European Research Council Starting Grant (PI) "*TANGO$_2$*"	17 M.kr
2022-2024	Erik Philip-Sörensens research grant (PI) "*Decoding symbiotic interactions using massively parallelized mutagenesis"*	240 t.kr
2022	Carl Tesdorpf Stiftelsen infrastructure grant	500 t.kr
2022-2024	Carl Tryggers grant for a postdoctoral fellowship	600 t.kr
2021-2023	Crafoord Stiftelsen (PI) "*It takes two to tango: exploring syntrophic interactions in anaerobic microbial eukaryotes."*	1.2 M kr
2021-2023	New Frontiers in Research Foundation (Co-PI) "*High-throughput single-cell genomic & chemical ecology approaches to elucidate microbial diversity & metabolism in a model marine oxygen minimum zone"*	~ 1.7 M kr
2021-2025	Etableringsbidrag - Vetenskaprådet (PI) *"Kryptiska symbioser i evolutionen av mikrobiella eukaryoter"*	3.6 M kr

SUPERVISION

Researchers/Postdocs (**5 ongoing**; 1 Dept. Biology, LU + 4 ICM, UU):
Lund/Uppsala University: Drs. Boisard (since 02/2022), S. Paraskevopoulou (since 09/2022), M. Fantini (since 05/2023), H. Itriago (since 05/2023), P. Cabotaje (since 11/2025)

Doctoral students (**3 ongoing**; 3 ICM, UU, **1 completed**):
Brask N (since Nov 2024), Musaev R (since July 2025), Gallego-Rodriguez V (since Nov 2025), completed: Campos K (2021-2026, LU)

Co-supervisor (**1 ongoing** Dept. Biology LU + **2 completed** ICM, UU):
Teresa Domingo (2023-present; LU), completed: Eva Caceres (2017-2019; UU); Jennah Dharamshi (2017-2020; UU);

EXPERT ASSIGNMENTS

I serve on the **Expert Research Group (2022-present)** for Evolution and Biodiversity of the DDLS where I help communicate activities between the research community and the DDLS initiative. I also evaluate call texts and proposals submitted through the DDLS programme (2022-present)**. State-commissioned activity (2023):** Biogeochemical and genomic investigation into the MS Estonia 1994 shipwreck on behalf of Statens Haverikommission (MS Estonia2023–24 Biogeochemical Report, Dupraz et al.) I have served as an **external reviewer for large granting agencies (2022-present)** including the ERC (Europe), ANR (France), NSF (USA) and NSERC (Canada). I am currently an **Associate Editor (2023-present)** Genome Biology and Evolution and on **the advisory board (2022-present)** of the EMBO Scientific Exchange Grants (evaluating 12-20 applications a year). **Opponent for two PhD defenses** (Charles University) and six thesis defense committees in Sweden. Peer-review experience for: Nat. Comm., Mol. Biol. Evol., PNAS, Curr Biol, Env. Microbiol., The ISME J, Gen. Biol. Evol., BMC Genomics, BMC Biol. Reference when applicable: orcid.org/0000-0001-6650-0970

INVITED TALKS (SINCE 2019)

Plenary/Keynote addresses:
- (International – upcoming) Polish society for molecular evolution September 12-14
- (International) PSA-ISOP-ISEP meeting, Seattle, USA July 28-Aug 1, 2024
- International Society of Evolutionary Protistology Conference, Jan 19, 2023 (online)
- (National) AMRI-Sweden, Kalmar Sweden. Dec 4 2021
- (National) Jirovec's Protozoological Days, Kostelec, Czechia April 22-26 2019

Invited speaker:
- (International-upcoming) Membrane Function: Comp. of Biologists June 13-16 2027
- (International) American Society of Cell Biology, Philadelphia, USA. Dec 5-10, 2025
- (International) Euro. Society for Evolutionary Biology; Barcelona, Spain Aug 18-23, 2025
- (International) LATSIS symposium EPFL, Switzerland July 8-9 2025
- (International) Diversity & Evol in Cell Biology, Comp. of Biologists June 24-27, 2024
- (International) Society for Mol. Biol and Evol (SMBE). Ferrera Italy. July 23-27, 2023
- (National) Swedish Microbiology Society October 2023
- (National) Microbiology UK (April 17-20) Birmingham UK, Apr 17-20, 2023
- (International) Bridging Genotype to Phenotype: Comp. of Biologists Nov 13-16. 2022

TEACHING & DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Lund university (2021-2025)

Course Leader & lecturer (2022-2025)
Genetics & Evolution (15 hp)
App. Bioinformatics (7.5 hp)
Python and Bioinformatics (3 hp)

Lecturer (2021-2025)
DNA informatics I (15 hp),
Microbiology (15 hp),
Mol. Microbiology (15 hp)

FOREIGN RESEARCH STAYS

2018 One-month research stay in the Department of Parasitology, Charles University, Czechia

2012 Three-month research stay in the Department of Medicinal Chemistry, University of Tokyo, Japan